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Agenda item 98

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

"Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

"(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

"(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission"

was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 38/183 O of 20 December 1983, 39/148 H of 17 December 1984 and 63/82 and 63/83 of 2 December 2008.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 October 2009, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 86 to 103. The general debate on those items was held at the 2nd to 8th meetings, from 5 to 9 and on 12 October (see A/C.1/64/PV.2-8). The Committee also held 10 meetings, from 13 to 16 and from 19 to 23 October, for an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials, as well as panel discussions with independent experts and follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see A/C.1/64/PV.9-18). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced

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and considered, at the 9th to 18th meetings, from 13 to 16 and from 19 to 23 October (see A/C.1/64/PV.9-18). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 19th to 23rd meetings, from 27 to 30 October and on 2 November (see A/C.1/64/PV.19-23).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2009 session;[1]

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2009.[2]

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.41

5. At the 18th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Austria, on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/64/L.41).

6. At the 20th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Austria orally revised the draft resolution by deleting the words, "*with appreciation*" after the word "*Acknowledging*" in the seventh preambular paragraph.

7. At the 22nd meeting, on 30 October, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.41, provided by the Secretary-General.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.41, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 11, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.52

9. On 19 October, the representative of Poland, on behalf of the members of the extended Bureau of the Disarmament Commission, namely Azerbaijan, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), submitted a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (A/C.1/64/L.52). Subsequently, Brazil, Colombia, the Comoros, Kazakhstan and the Philippines joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

10. At its 20th meeting, on 28 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.52 without a vote[3] (see para. 11, draft resolution II).

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/64/27).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 42* (A/64/42).

[3] The representative of the United States of America made a statement indicating that the United States delegation would not participate in action on the draft resolution.

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[1]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the addresses by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials in the Conference on Disarmament, as expressions of support for the endeavours of the Conference and its role as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Recognizing also the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation,

Considering that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

Acknowledging the support of the United Nations Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, held on 24 September 2009, for the work of the Conference on Disarmament,

Bearing in mind the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 29 May 2009[2] to establish four working groups and appoint three special coordinators, including one working group under agenda item 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", which shall negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator of 1995[3] and the mandate contained therein, without prescribing or precluding any outcome of discussions in the other three working groups, with a view to enabling future compromise and including the possibility of future negotiations under any agenda item, thus upholding the nature of the Conference,

Appreciating the continued cooperation among the States members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as the six successive Presidents of the Conference at its 2009 session,

Recognizing the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/64/27).

[2] Ibid., sect. II.D; see also CD/1864.

[3] CD/1299.

Taking note of significant contributions made during the 2009 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda, as well as of discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

Welcoming the enhanced engagement between civil society and the Conference on Disarmament at its 2009 session according to decisions taken by the Conference,

Stressing the urgent need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2010 session,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Welcomes* the consensus adoption of a programme of work for the 2009 session of the Conference on Disarmament,[2] including the establishment of four working groups and the appointment of three special coordinators;

3. *Takes note* of the active discussions held on the implementation of the programme of work at the 2009 session of the Conference on Disarmament, as duly reflected in the report[1] and the records of the plenary meetings;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to request the current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference on Disarmament, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations;

5. *Requests* all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of substantive work, including negotiations, in its 2010 session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure and strengthen, if needed, the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of all necessary administrative, substantive and conference support services;

7. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

Draft resolution II
Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007 and 63/83 of 2 December 2008,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Recalls* its resolution 61/98, by which it adopted additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the Commission's methods of work;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue the consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2010:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/64/42).

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

(b) Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade;

(c) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. This item will be taken up upon the conclusion of the preparation of the elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade, preferably by 2010 and in any case no later than 2011;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2010, namely from 29 March to 16 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/64/27).